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17 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
18 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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20 IN RE: SOCIAL MEDIA ADOLESCENT  
21 ADDICTION/PERSONAL INJURY  
22 PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

Case No. 4:22-MD-03047-YGR

MDL No. 3047

23 This Document Relates to:  
24 *J.F. filed on behalf of minor L.F. v. Meta*  
*Platforms, Inc., et al., 4:23-cv-01846.*

25  
26  
27  
28 **PLAINTIFFS' EX PARTE APPLICATION  
FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN  
AD LITEM**

## APPLICATION

Pursuant to this Court’s Order Regarding Appointment of Guardian *Ad Litem* (“Guardians *Ad Litem* Order”), Plaintiffs’ Liaison Counsel, Jennie Lee Anderson, hereby submits an *Ex Parte* Application for Appointment of Guardian *Ad Litem* (“*Ex Parte* Application”) for this Court’s consideration. ECF No. 122 at 3.

“Fit parents are presumed to act in the best interests of their children.” *J.B. by & Through Billiet v. Tuolumne Cnty. Superintendent of Sch.*, No. 19-cv-0858-NONE-EPG, 2021 WL 3115195, at \*2 (E.D. Cal. July 22, 2021) (citing *Troxel v. Granville*, 530 U.S. 57, 66 (2000); *Doe v. Heck*, 327 F.3d 492, 521 (7th Cir. 2003)); *see also Brown v. Alexander*, No. 13-cv-01451-RS, 2015 WL 7350183, at \*1 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 20, 2015) (“In general, a parent who is also a party to the lawsuit is presumed to be a suitable guardian ad litem, and so the court often appoints the parent as guardian ad litem upon receipt of an ex parte application without exercising much discretion.”) (citation omitted). Absent a conflict of interest, “[a] parent is generally appointed guardian *ad litem*.” *A.G. v. South Bay Dreams Coop., Inc.*, No. 16-cv-02598-RNB, 2018 WL 2002370, at \*3 (S.D. Cal. Apr. 30, 2018) (citing *Anthem Life Ins. Co. v. Olguin*, No. 06-cv-01165-AWI NEW (TAG), 2007 WL 1390672, at \*3 (E.D. Cal. May 9, 2007)); *accord J.M. v. Liberty Union High Sch. Dist.*, No. 16-cv-05225-LB, 2016 WL 4942999, at \*2 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 16, 2016). However, “[w]hen there is a potential conflict between a perceived parental responsibility and an obligation to assist the court in achieving a just and speedy determination of the action, a court has the right to select a guardian ad litem who is not a parent if that guardian would best protect the child’s interests.” *J.M.*, 2016 WL 4942999, at \*1 (citations omitted) (internal quotation marks omitted).

Attached as Exhibit 1 to the Declaration of Jennie Lee Anderson in Support of Plaintiffs' *Ex Parte* Application ("Anderson Decl." or "Anderson Declaration") is the *Ex Parte* Application for Appointment of Guardian *Ad Litem* ("Application") submitted by the parents and/or legal guardians of individual minor Plaintiffs in the following cases:

- *J.F. filed on behalf of minor L.F. v. Meta Platforms, Inc., et al., 4:23-cv-01846 (Exhibit 1).*

1 Exhibit 1 is the only Application submitted to Plaintiffs' Liaison Counsel for filing since  
2 the last guardian *ad litem* submission. The Application attached to the Anderson Declaration as  
3 Exhibit 1 is consistent with Attachment A to this Court's Guardian *Ad Litem* Order (ECF  
4 No. 122) and includes (1) the applicant's name and contact information (including address, email,  
5 and telephone number); (2) the name, case number, state of domicile (and its minimum age of  
6 capacity); (3) a sworn statement that the applicant is the parent and/or legal guardian of the minor  
7 plaintiff; and (4) a sworn statement affirming that the applicant is fully competent and qualified to  
8 understand and protect the rights of the minor plaintiff and has no interests adverse to the interests  
9 of that person. Anderson Decl. ¶ 4.

10 Pursuant to this Court’s Guardians *Ad Litem* Order, the Applications by parents and/or  
11 legal guardians in the cases listed above are deemed presumptively approved upon filing, as there  
12 is no apparent conflict between the applicants’ parental responsibility and their obligation to assist  
13 the Court in “achieving a just and speedy determination of the action.” ECF No. 122 ¶ 4 (citing  
14 *J.M.*, 2016 WL 494299, at \*1). This Court also ordered that, absent the filing of an objection, the  
15 presumptive approval shall become final fifteen days after the date this *Ex Parte* Application is  
16 filed. ECF No. 122 ¶ 5. Therefore, the objection period will close on July 3, 2023.

17 Accordingly, Plaintiffs submit herewith a [Proposed] Order Granting *Ex Parte*  
18 Application and Appointing Guardian *Ad Litem* appointing the parent and/or legal guardian  
19 named in the Application submitted in the case listed above.

20 | Dated: June 16, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jennie Lee Anderson

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